

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of determining availability of members of a contact list in a
5 wireless communication system, wherein the method comprises:
determining an availability status of members of a contact list by receiving
messages that indicate changes in availability of client devices associated with the
contact list; and
transmitting information regarding the availability of the client devices only
10 when a change has occurred in the availability of a client device.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes:
storing the changes in availability of the client devices in a queue; and
periodically transmitting the changes in availability that are in the queue to the
15 client devices.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes:
starting a timer;
storing the changes in availability of the client devices in a queue;
20 when the timer expires, transmitting the changes in availability that are in the
queue to the client devices; and
resetting the timer.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein, if the transmitting has been performed, the method includes delaying a subsequent transmission of contact list availability information until a time interval has passed.

5. A method of indicating availability of a wireless client device that is associated with a contact list in a wireless communication system, wherein the method comprises:

detecting a change in availability of the client device;

5 when a change in availability of the client device is detected, transmitting a message from the client device to a controller, wherein the message signals the change in availability to the controller.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the method further includes
10 receiving from the controller a message that indicates the availability of other client devices associated with the contact list when a change has occurred in the availability of any of the other client devices.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the method further includes
15 receiving from the controller a message that indicates changes in the availability of other client devices associated with the contact list when a change has occurred in the availability of any of the other client devices.

8. The method according to claim 5, wherein the method includes detecting a
20 change in availability when the client device is being turned off.

9. The method according to claim 5, wherein the method includes detecting a change in availability when the client device is moving out of a geographic service area of the wireless communication system.

10. The method according to claim 5, wherein the method includes detecting a change in availability when the client device moves out of a first service area and into a second service area of the wireless communication system.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein the first service area is a digital service area and the second area is an analog service area.

12. The method according to claim 5, wherein the client device is associated
10 with more than one contact list.

13. The method according to claim 5, wherein the transmitting is performed only when a change in availability of the client device is detected.

15 14. The method according to claim 5, wherein the method is performed by a mobile telephone.

15. A method of updating the availability of members of a contact list in a wireless client device, wherein the method comprises:

- receiving from a controller a wireless message concerning the availability of other client devices, which are associated with the contact list, only when a change
5 has occurred in the availability of at least one of the other client devices; and
storing information from the wireless message concerning the availability of the other client devices in a memory of the device.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the method includes:
10 detecting a change in availability of the wireless client device; and
when a change in availability of the wireless client device is detected,
transmitting a wireless message from the wireless client device to the controller,
wherein the message signals the change in availability of the wireless client device to the controller.

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17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the method includes detecting a change in availability when the wireless client device is being turned off.

18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the method includes detecting
20 a change in availability when the wireless client device is moving out of a geographic service area of the wireless communication system.

19. The method according to claim 16, wherein the method includes detecting a change in availability when the wireless client device moving out of a first service area and into a second service area of the wireless communication system.

5 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the first service area is a digital service area and the second area is an analog service area.

21. The method according to claim 14, wherein the method is performed by a mobile telephone.